Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 – 47   (Canceled)

48.   (Currently Amended)   A method for providing an intelligent multimedia services environment in a network, comprising the steps of:

responsive to a request by an end user, a first terminal device coupled to the network establishing a session with a media server and initiating a multimedia application that is shared by a second terminal device;;

simultaneously, the first and second terminal devices sharing and manipulating said multimedia application and multimedia data from one or more multimedia databases; the multimedia database by one or more end user terminal devices ;

selecting the multimedia data according to user preferences utilizing a first application associated with the multimedia application;

adapting the multimedia data according to terminal device capabilities and network capabilities utilizing a second application associated with the multimedia application;

providing communication between the first terminal device and the second terminal device said one or more end user terminal devices and the said multimedia data and the said multimedia application;

utilizing one or more databases containing said multimedia data;

determining preferences of each of said one or more end user the first and second terminal devices; and

automatically adapting the said multimedia data to satisfy the determined preferences and the terminal device and network capabilities said determined preferences of each of said one or more end user of the first and second terminal

devices prior to sending the multimedia data to the first and second terminal devices said adapted multimedia data to a receiving end user terminal device.

49.   (Currently Amended)   The method of Claim 48, further comprising the step of transmitting commands between the first and second terminal devices defining each set of operations and manipulations required in the said shared multimedia data received by the first and second between end user terminal devices.

50.   (Currently Amended)   The method of Claim 48, wherein the said determined preferences of the said one or more end user terminal devices include user preferences, terminal device capabilities, and network capabilities.

51.   (Currently Amended)   The method of Claim 50, further comprising the step of sharing device preferences of each of the said end user first and second terminal devices with all connected said end user terminal devices.

52.   (Currently Amended)   The method of Claim 51, further comprising the step of storing the said user preferences, terminal device capabilities and network capabilities at a Universal Resource Locator (URL) address.

53.   (Currently Amended)   The method of Claim 52, further comprising the steps of:
identifying a multimedia data set stored in the said one or more multimedia data bases;
utilizing the second application a transcoder/scalability service to modify the said multimedia data set according to the said user preferences, terminal device capabilities; and network capabilities, wherein the second application is a transcoder/scalability service; and
making the said modified multimedia data set available to one or more end user terminal devices connected to the network.

Page 3 of 12

54.   (Currently Amended)   The method of Claim 53, further comprising the steps of:

scaling the said modified multimedia data set according to one or more significance values associated with each element of the said modified multimedia data set; and encoding the said modified multimedia set according to the said terminal capabilities and communication connection capabilities.

55.   (Currently Amended)   The method of Claim 53, wherein the said multimedia data set comprises one of, or a combination of two or more:

a still image;

one or more regions of interest of the said still image;

a cropped portion of the said still image;

a video object; and

a segment of the said video object.

56.   (Currently Amended)   The method of Claim 53 wherein the said user preferences comprise:

a number of elements that constitute the said multimedia data set,

a significance value assigned to each element of the said multimedia data set; and

a cost price associated with making the said modified multimedia data set available to the said one or more end user terminal devices.

57.   (Currently Amended)   The method of Claim 53, wherein the said terminal device capabilities include:

a level of resolution and an amount of processing power associated with each of the said one or more end user terminal devices connected to the said multimedia data set.

58. (Currently Amended) A multimedia system associated with a network, comprising:

a first terminal device coupled to the network for establishing a session with a media server and for initiating a multimedia application;

a second terminal device one or more end user terminal devices connected to the said network for simultaneously sharing and manipulating multimedia data with the first terminal device, from one or more multimedia databases and a multimedia application;

a server coupled with, and providing communication between, the first terminal device and the second terminal device said one or more end user terminal devices and the said multimedia data and the said multimedia application;

one or more databases containing said multimedia data;

a first application associated with the multimedia application for selecting the multimedia data according to user preferences

a second application associated with the multimedia application for adapting the multimedia data according to terminal device and network capabilities;

means for determining preferences of each of said one or more end user terminal devices; and

at least one transcoder coupled with the said media server for automatically adapting the said multimedia data to satisfy the said determined preferences of the first and second terminal devices and the capabilities of the network and the first and second terminal devices of each of said said one or more end user terminal devices prior to sending the said adapted multimedia to the first and second terminal devices a receiving end user terminal device.

59. (Currently Amended) The multimedia system of Claim 58, further comprising means for transmitting commands between the first and second terminal devices defining each set of operations and manipulations required in the said shared multimedia data received by the between end user terminal devices.

60.   (Currently Amended)   The multimedia system of Claim 58, wherein the said determined preferences of the ~~said one or more end user~~ first and second terminal devices include user preferences, terminal device capabilities; and network capabilities.

61   (Currently Amended)   The multimedia system of Claim 58, wherein ~~said~~ the at least one transcoder further comprises a scalability function for modifying the ~~said~~ multimedia data.

62.   (Currently Amended)   The multimedia system of Claim 61, wherein the ~~said~~ transcoder is capable of communicating with each of the first and second ~~said~~ ~~end-user~~ terminal devices over a network connection

63   (Currently Amended)   The multimedia system of Claim 62, wherein the ~~said~~ transcoder is associated with a server.

64.   (Currently Amended)   The multimedia system of Claim 62, wherein the ~~said~~ transcoder is associated with a gateway device.

65.   (Currently Amended)   The multimedia system of Claim 58, wherein the ~~said~~ multimedia data comprises one of, or a combination of:
a still image;
one or more regions of interest of the ~~said~~ still image;
a cropped portion of the ~~said~~ still image;
a video object; and
a segment of the ~~said~~ video object.

66.   (Currently Amended)   The multimedia system of Claim 58, further comprising:

a multimedia data set stored in <u>the first and second multimedia</u> ~~said one or more~~ data bases;

a transcoder/scalability means for encoding, scaling and compressing <u>the</u> ~~said~~ multimedia data set according to <u>the</u> ~~said~~ user preferences, terminal <u>device</u> capabilities; and network capabilities; and

a means for making <u>the</u> ~~said~~ modified multimedia data set available to one or more ~~end-user~~ terminal devices.

67.   (Currently Amended)   The multimedia system of Claim 58, wherein <u>the</u> ~~said~~ transcoder/scability service further comprises a transcoder for encoding,

68.   (Currently Amended)   The multimedia system of Claim 58, wherein <u>the</u> ~~said~~ server further comprises a multipoint controller.